

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Tamlyn House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

305 North Commerce Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Ann D. Tamlyn

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

305 N. Commerce Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 69

Folio #: 48

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-142

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Tamlyn House is located on the west side of North Commerce Street, just south of Academy Lane.

This frame dwelling house was constructed in two distinct periods. The original house was 2 1/2 stories high on a full brick cellar, three bays wide and one room deep with a single flush brick chimney centered on the north end of the pitched gable roof. It was later enlarged to the rear, forming a double pile house, still 2 1/2 stories high but with considerably more space on the third floor. The front facade faces east to Commerce Street. The door is located in the south bay, with two 9/6 windows to the right and three 6/6 windows on the second floor. There are two 6/6 pitched roof dormer windows on the third floor and a pair of four-light cellar windows directly below the first floor windows.

The foundation is laid in three-course bond; the exterior siding consists of random-width horizontal weatherboards with the lower edges roughly beveled. The six-panel front door and four-light transom above are framed with a crossetted

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

architrave with an ogee/astragal backband. The eaves are finished with a box cornice trimmed with a complex crown mold and bed mold. Other trim includes the beaded cornerboards and pedimented dormer gables.

On the south gable wall, the outline of the original single-pile house can clearly be seen. The early siding remains in place, framed with the old cornerboard and a simple piece of trim corresponding to the line of the original rear roof pitch. In the center of the original gable wall, there is a single 9/6 window on the first floor, a 6/6 window on the second floor, and a 4/4 in the upper gable. A small cellar window pierces the foundation to left of center. The siding is random-width with beveled edges. The added rear section of the house also rests on a full brick foundation but is covered with plain weatherboard siding. There is one opening on each floor, mirroring the fenestration pattern of the original front section. The gable eaves of the enlarged house are trimmed with beaded and tapered rakeboards.

On the rear facade, the door is in the south bay, with two 9/6 windows to the left, three 6/6 windows on the second floor, and one large shed roof dormer in the south bay on the third floor.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

A cellar door is located under the rear entrance porch in the south bay, and two four-light cellar windows are centered under the first floor windows. The south window on the second floor is downset over the stair landing; the third floor dormer is also centered on the stair hall and is fitted with a single 6/6 sash flanked by narrow 2/2 sash on each side. The siding is plain, trimmed with beaded cornerboards; the cornice matches the cornice on the front facade.

The division between the original house and the later addition is not expressed on the north gable. The entire wall is sheathed with plain, relatively narrow weatherboard siding. The only openings are a 6/6 window in the east bay on the first floor and a pair of 4/4 windows on the third floor, set between the paired flush brick chimneys. The gable eaves are trimmed with beaded and tapered rakeboards.

The interior plan of the original house evidently consisted of a side stair hall across the south gable with a large parlor to the north. The stair was positioned against the south gable wall of the hall and rose to a landing at the rear, then turned 180 degrees and continued to the second floor. This stair was removed when the house was enlarged. There is no evidence of an original interior stair, and the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

only clue to the location of the stair is a break in the baseboard on the south gable wall. Surprisingly, there is no clear evidence of a patch where the newel post was removed, though there is a larger patch in the general vicinity of the foot of the stair. More complete evidence has survived on the second floor.

The partition between the first floor hall and the parlor is constructed of stud and plaster, with a door in the center joining the two rooms. The six-panel door has fully raised panels on one side, and is hung on early iron butt hinges. The Federal door architrave has a beaded fascia broken into two fields by a delicate ogee molding and an ogee/astragal backband. The architrave trim on all other doors and windows throughout the first floor of the house has a rabbetted, broken field fascia with a steep Grecian ogee/astragal backband typical of circa 1830. One section of a molded, two-piece chairrail survives in the southeast corner of the hall, and a simple, molded baseboard remains on the east and north walls.

In the parlor, the fireplace is centered on the north gable wall. The existing mantel is a recent reproduction of a simple, early 19th century board surround. A six-panel door in the rear wall opens into the later room to the west. The architrave trim

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

on the hall door is original, the remainder dates to circa 1830 except the window in the north gable wall, which has a modern architrave. A small cupboard in the east cheek wall of the chimney is fitted with a single door with a diamond fret formed by an applied astragal molding.

When the house was enlarged circa 1830, the stair hall was extended to the west and a smaller parlor was added to the rear, forming a side hall, double parlor plan. The original stair was removed and a new stair constructed against the south and west walls of the enlarged hall. It is an open-string stair with chamfered newel posts, a simple molded rail and square ballusters. The stair ends are left plain and the area below the carriage is closed in with plain vertical boards. The newel post at the foot of the stair is heavy and turned with a ball cap. A six-panel door opens onto an interior cellar stair under the landing. The original exterior wall framing remains exposed under the stairs. It is whitewashed and sheathed on the exterior with random-width flush siding. The L-section corner post is reinforced with down-braces on both sides.

A six-panel door opens from the stair hall into the rear parlor. The fireplace is centered on the north gable wall, with modern closets framed in on either side.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

A stripped and repaired Federal mantel frames the fireplace. It has paneled pilasters, side blocks and center blocks, a plain frieze and a complex molded shelf that breaks forward above all three blocks. The modern closets are fitted with early six-panel doors and reproduction architrave trim to match the circa 1830 trim of the room.

The second floor of the original house was divided into a side stair hall across the south gable and two chambers to the north. The original partitions have been changed, but sufficient evidence can be found to reconstruct much of the original appearance. A seam in the west end of the hall outlines the original stair opening, and the header can be observed where several floor boards have been cut through. It would appear that a small enclosed attic stair was located near the center of the south gable wall. A break in the original chairrail and baseboard mark the foot of the stair (and the stair partition) and the stair header remains visible through a hole in the ceiling. Mortise holes in the floor mark the location on the newel post at the top of the first floor stair and a short, curving ballustrade that ran from the newel to the enclosed attic stair. A double beaded chairrail and beaded baseboard survive on the south and east walls of the hall. A vertical beaded board

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

partition formed the north wall of the hall. Two doors in this wall opened into the two north chambers. The east half of this wall remains in place, but the west half has been moved. The door opening for the northeast chamber remains, but was later blocked and the board partition was plastered on both sides. This plaster has been removed in recent years, re-exposing the original board wall, which was painted blue. The outline of the original baseboard, chairrail, and architrave trim remains clearly visible.

The partition between the northeast and northwest chamber has been removed. It was constructed of studs and plaster, and did not run in a straight line, but was angled near the hall doors (see plan). Nail holes in the ceiling joists and outlines on the walls identify the location of this partition. The two north chambers were therefore unequal in size and the front or northeast chamber was not heated. The fireplace is centered on the north gable wall but only served the rear or northwest chamber. A seam in the plaster to the right of the fireplace marks the location of the original interior partition. To the left of the fireplace is a closet framed in with vertical beaded boards and fitted with an early four-panel door. Surviving trim includes a two-piece chairrail on the north and east walls of the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

northeast chamber, original beaded baseboard and early architrave trim. The fireplace is fitted with a reproduction board surround.

When the house was enlarged, the original stair was removed and the second floor partitions were removed or altered. The stair hall was extended across the south gable and a rear sleeping chamber added. This chamber is heated by a fireplace centered on the north gable wall, flanked by closets on each side. The mantel is a simple Greek surround with an ogee/astragal backband framing the opening, plain sideblocks and frieze and a simple molded shelf.

The enlarged third floor is divided into a side stair hall to the south and two unheated chambers to the north. The east end of the hall has been partitioned to form a modern bath. Six-panel doors, beaded baseboard, and complex architrave trim all date to the circa 1830 renovation.

A trap door in the northeast chamber opens into an unfinished attic. From here it is possible to see the original roof framing, which was pulled apart and doubled up with longer rafters when the house was enlarged. One original rafter pair remains intact in the south gable wall. The rafters are all secured with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. Both wrought nails

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.8 DESCRIPTION

and double-struck nails are evident in the original roof framing. It is interesting to note that the wall plates of the original house are interrupted by an intermediate post in the center of each facade.

The cellar has been completely renovated.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
X 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tamlyn House was constructed circa 1803 by William Legg on a quarter acre lot purchased the preceding year from Joseph H. Nicholson. It was enlarged during the second quarter of the 19th century to its present size and has remained virtually untouched until recent years, when a major restoration/renovation was undertaken by the present owner.

This house is one of perhaps fifteen dwellings surviving from the first years of Centreville's establishment. The original size, form and plan of the 1803 house remains clearly visible, and much of the interior trim remains from the first period. The house was later enlarged to form a 2 1/2 story, double pile dwelling, probably circa 1833-37. The evidence of this change is also clearly visible and makes the Tamlyn House an ideal "puzzle" or study building. Today, the interior woodwork includes a mixture of details from both periods

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

of construction.

The house stands on a quarter acre lot, part of Lot 32 North. It was purchased by William Legg from Joseph H. Nicholson in November 1802 for L12.10.0.⁽¹⁾ The tax assessment for 1802 lists the lot under William Legg and notes that it is unimproved, with a value of \$16. The following year, the lot is listed as improved and worth \$800. In 1809, the property was assessed for \$1200, and in 1816, following the death of William Legg, the property was charged to his heirs and assessed at \$1200. These increases appear to reflect the overall trend in Centreville assessment values, possibly augmented by the construction of outbuildings, rather than specific improvements to the house.⁽²⁾

In 1832, Legg's daughter and son sold an undivided 2/3 interest in the property to Thomas Wright 3rd for \$466.⁽³⁾ Wright retained possession until 1841, when he sold the property to Robert Chilton for \$1200.⁽⁴⁾ The dramatic rise in price between 1832 and 1841 dovetails with the architectural evidence to suggest that it was Thomas Wright 3rd who enlarged the house. The tax assessment tends to reinforce this conclusion, showing a rise in value from \$1000 in 1833 to \$1800 in 1837.⁽⁵⁾

In 1843 Robert Chilton conveyed the property to William Chilton⁽⁶⁾ and later the same year William Chilton sold the house and lot to Daniel Newnam for

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

\$1000.⁽⁷⁾ The latter deed indicates that the property was not owned free and clear by William Chilton, as part was sold to John H. Evans. The 1845 tax assessment reflects this confusion, as the lot is listed under Daniel Newnam, valued at \$1500, with a second figure of \$1000 written in the margin, and in parentheses the notation "Abate Robert P. Chilton". The following year, Newnam's assessment is \$1000.⁽⁸⁾

In 1860 Daniel Newnam sold "that lot with dwelling and other improvements thereon" to James B. Palmer for \$1500.⁽⁹⁾ In 1908 the heirs of James Palmer sold the property to Edward J. Larrimore⁽¹⁰⁾ and in 1915 Larrimore sold it to John P. Williamson.⁽¹¹⁾ The property passed through four more owners before being purchased by the present owner in 1972.⁽¹²⁾

Footnotes

- (1) Deeds STW 6, folio 299. November 27, 1802. In 1804 Legg bought an additional quarter acre lot immediately to the north from Nicholson for £15. See Deeds STW 7, folio 218; December 18, 1804.
- (2) Proceedings of the Centreville Town Commissioners, 1797-1876. Maryland Hall of Records.
- (3) Deeds TM 6, folio 354. December 20, 1832.
- (4) Deeds JT 3, folio 273. May 7, 1841.
- (5) Proceedings of the Centreville Town Commissioners. The value did significantly drop in 1824 and then rebounded in 1825, but it seems probable that this was a reflection of tax values for the entire town which dropped from \$100,000 to \$85,000 between 1823 and 1824 and then rebounded to \$115,000 in 1825.
- (6) Deeds, JT 4, folio 68. April 29, 1843.
- (7) Deeds, JT 4, folio 218. November 14, 1843.
- (8) Proceedings of the Centreville Town Commissioners.
- (9) Deeds, MB 1, folio 479. December 31, 1860.
- (10) Deeds SS 5, folio 424. November 15, 1908.
- (11) Deeds WFW 7, folio 522. September 16, 1915.
- (12) See Deeds JFR 2, folio 402. July 5, 1919.
ASG Jr. 7, folio 54. November 21, 1942.
ASG Jr. 14, folio 463. August 1, 1946.
CWC 30, folio 600. Sept. 30, 1967.
CWC 69, folio 48. November 24, 1972.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

10/7/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XIX; Recorded October 10, 1980.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



Tamlyn House QA 142

~~Ralie Boyles Residence~~

305 N. Commerce St.



QA-142

Tamlyn Residence

305 North Commerce Street

Centreville, Maryland

Orlando Ridout V 1981

Rear facade from Southwest



QA-142 Tamlyn Residence
305 North Commerce Street
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1981
Front facade from Southeast